

**CLAIMS**

1. An item of footwear (10) comprising in combination:

- an outsole (11) having in its forepart at least a vent opening (12) which is made through the thickness of said outsole (11),
- 5     - a grating-like element (13) which is set into said vent opening (12) and acts as a screen by separating and protecting the inside of the footwear from the ground which comes into contact with said outsole (11),
- 10     - a pliable sheet insert (15) made from a breathable and waterproofed material which is embedded into the outsole (11) and is positioned inside the outsole (11) so as to overlie said vent opening (12),
- an insole (16) made of a breathable and waterproofed material, and
- an upper (17) made of a breathable and waterproofed material.

15     2. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said grating-like element (13) is formed of juxtaposed straight or curved, parallel or latticed bar elements (14) which are integral with the outsole (11) and are produced together therewith.

20     3. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said grating-like element (13) is formed of juxtaposed straight or curved, parallel or latticed bar elements (14) which are integral with an insert intended to be inserted into said vent opening (12) in the outsole (11) and fixed therein.

4. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the material of the sheet insert (15) is waterproofed leather.

5. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the material of the insole (16) is waterproofed leather, leatherboard or fibreboard.

6. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said insole (16) is provided with through holes (18) located in the forepart thereof which aid to moisture breathability of the insole.

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7. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said insole (16) is covered by an insock (19).

8. An item of footwear according to claim 7, wherein said insock (19) is formed of layers of different materials joined together by a stitching seam.

9. An item of footwear according to claim 8, wherein said insock (19) comprises at least a top layer made of leather and a bottom layer made of ethylene vinyl acetate.

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10. An item of footwear according to claim 8, wherein the insock (19) is provided with a heel cushioning pad (20) located in its back part.

11. An item of footwear according to claim 8, wherein said insock (19) is provided with through holes (21) located in its forepart which aid to moisture breathability of the insock.

- 5 12. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein the upper (17) is made from waterproofed leather or a combination thereof with synthetic materials such as foam polymers and nylon or polyester mesh bonded together in a laminated form.